

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ANTARES VISION GROUP: MICROWAVE TECHNOLOGY IS GOING TO REVOLUTIONISE THE INSPECTION OF PACKAGED PRODUCTS FOR DETECTING FOREIGN BODIES**

**Antares Vision Group is now offering an innovative application – specifically intended for food safety – for detecting foreign bodies, which until now could only be done with X-rays and metal detectors. Jointly developed with Wavision, a startup originating from the Polytechnic University of Turin, this technological application is set to revolutionise the Food and Beverage industry, and potentially other sectors too**

Travagliato (BS), xx October 2022 – **Antares Vision Group**, a technological partner of excellence in digitalization and innovation for companies and institutions with a complete ecosystem of technologies to guarantee product quality (inspection systems and machines) and product traceability along the supply chain (from raw materials to production, from distribution to the consumer) through integrated data management, **confirms the development of a strategic innovation that uses microwave technology to detect foreign bodies in packaged products, which can therefore also be applied to industrial sectors. A group of researchers from the Polytechnic University of Turin began developing the project in 2018, and it is now moving forward with Wavision**, a startup that was set up to continue working on the project and ensure industrialisation.

Antares Vision Group joined the project through FT System, leader in quality inspection systems in Food and Beverage. The project saw the collaboration of several players who guaranteed the sustainability since the early stages of development: the **Polytechnic University of Turin** for the technological study, FT SYSTEM (today as Antares Vision Group), first as a technological partner and then as a majority shareholder of Wavision, and Vertis SGR (with Vertis Venture 3 Tech Transfer) - fund dedicated to promoting the technology transfer of the best Deep Tech projects coming from the best Italian universities.

Antares Vision Group will be using the sensors that Wavision has developed to design **a range of innovative inspection machines** to be used in the Food and Beverage industry (and potentially in other sectors), which can detect physical contaminants, thus **overcoming the limitations of currently used inspection equipment** such as X-rays and Metal Detectors. In fact, these are not always efficient when physical contaminants have a similar density to that of the product containing them, or when they are too small to be detected.

By exploiting the various dielectric properties of materials, microwave technology can determine whether foreign bodies are present in **creams, semi-liquids and liquids**, especially when it comes to **transparent physical contaminants such as plastic or glass**. With this type of inspection, the requirements of large-scale retailers can be met with greater accuracy, and in compliance with BRC, IFS or ISO 22000 standards, in order to guarantee food safety, reduce product recalls, and protect the reputation of brands.

The fact that physical contaminants may be present in packaged products is a **threat to consumers' health and safety**; this entails having to deal with product recalls, which inevitably leads to **substantial costs**. The RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) report of 2021, the last one issued, showed that there were 4,607 alerts in Europe, of which 1,455 were deemed to pose a serious risk. Ultimately, this is also **detrimental to the reputation of the manufacturer**, since the relationship of trust between the brand and the consumer fizzles out.

*'After many years spent developing this application, and this is thanks to the excellent work done by the team of researchers at the Polytechnic University of Turin, we are now ready for industrial applications,' says **Fabio Forestelli, Executive Board Member and General Manager Food and Beverage at AV Group**. 'This innovation is set to completely revolutionise food safety, as it overcomes the limitations of current inspection technologies in*

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*detecting foreign bodies, and proves that we are committed to ensuring quality and safety of products and supply chains, for companies and consumers.'*

**Marco Ricci, CTO and founding partner of Wavision**, speaks on behalf of all researchers, and is pleased with the agreement signed with Antares Vision Group, which sets the stage for developing the technology from a commercial and industrial perspective. Working with a long-standing company such as Antares Vision Group will make it possible to optimally develop the device, turning it from a prototype developed in an academic setting to an industrial device that can considerably increase production quality standards for the group's clients.

*"Italy is country full of excellences in Deep Tech, with a centuries-old industrial and manufacturing tradition. The goal we have set has been to facilitate Tech Transfer processes of best Italian research teams, and to establish relationships with the most innovative players in industry – says **Roberto Della Marina, Venture Factory Managing Partner and VERTIS SGR Operating Partner** – We are sure that Antares Vision Group is the best industrial partner for the future growth of Wavision".*

### **Wavision in a nutshell**

Wavision is a startup set up by a team of five researchers from the Polytechnic University of Turin – with the endorsement by the Technology Transfer Department - thanks to the financing by the fund "Vertis Venture 3 Tech Transfer" managed by VERTIS SGR Spa and Venture Factory Srl. On 29 September 2022, FT System S.r.l., which is part of the Antares Vision Group, acquired the majority shares of Wavision. FT System – which joined the Antares Vision Group in 2019 – has been working with the Polytechnic and funding its research since 2018, with the aim of applying microwave technology to detect contaminants inside pre-packaged products in the Beverage sector.

By the end of 2022, Wavision will complete the internal path at the Polytechnic University of Turin to get the recognition as a University Spinoff, thus accomplishing a prime-example technology transfer process, from lab to market.

### **Antares Vision Group in a nutshell**

Antares Vision Group is technology partner in digitalization and innovation for companies, institutions and governments, guaranteeing safety and quality, sustainability and efficiency of products and supply chains to build trust. It provides a unique and integrated ecosystem of technologies – including software and hardware – to guarantee product quality (inspection systems and equipment) and end-to-end traceability (from raw materials to production, from distribution to the consumer), through connected data management, applying artificial intelligence and blockchain. AV Group is active in the Life Science (pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and hospitals), Beverage, Food, Cosmetics, Chemicals and Packaging and potentially in many other industries. The world leader in track and trace solutions for pharmaceutical products, it provides major global pharma manufacturers (more than 50% of the Top 20 multinationals) and several government authorities with solutions to monitor their supply chains and validate product authenticity. Listed since April 2019 on the Italian Stock Exchange in the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) segment and from 14 May 2021 in the STAR segment of the Mercato Telematico Azionario (MTA) (electronic equity market), AV Group recorded a turnover of Euro 179 million in 2021, operates in 60 countries, employs more than 1,000 people, and has a consolidated network of around 40 international partners.

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